

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 SSO-00 L-03 SY-07 INR-10 CIAE-00

EUR-06 INRE-00 /028 W

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O R 221824Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 613

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BELFAST 13

JANUARY 22, 1974.

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CASC (ATKINSON THERESA)

SUBJECT: W/W - THERESA ATKINSON

REF STATE 13562

1. BELFAST 10 REPLIED TO STATE 8834.

2. SUBJECT WAS WALKING ALONG GROSVENOR ROAD WITH HER COUSIN (NOT FRIEND MISS CHICUREL AS REPORTED BELFAST 10) AND SUDDENLY FELT STING IN NOSE. SHE BELIEVED IT TO BE BLOOD VESSEL BURSTING. LATER PERHAPS 20 MINUTES OR SO SHE REALIZED IT WAS NOT SIMPLE NOSEBLEED, WENT ACROSS CITY TO CATHOLIC MATER HOSPITAL (INJURY OCCURRED VIRTUALLY ON DOORSTEP OF ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL WHERE SHE WAS TREATED). SHE WAS ENTIRELY ALERT THROUGHOUT. MATER DID NOT INFORM POLICE ON GROUND INJURY WASN'T CLEARLY GUNSHOT WOUND. IN ANY CASE SUBJECT WAS VERY ANXIOUS TO PREVENT HER FAMILY'S LEARNING OF INCIDENT. COUSIN A CATHOLIC, DID NOT IMMEDIATELY INFORM POLICE SHE SAYS DUE TO SHOCK. SUBSEQUENTLY SHE WAS RELUCTANT TO DO SO, LEST PRESENCE OF POLICE IN AREA OF HOUSE WOULD BRING STORY OUT AND REVEAL THAT FAMILY IS CATHOLIC IN A PROTESTANT NEIGHBORHOOD. SUBJECT WAS TRANSFERRED TO ROYAL FOLLOWING DAY. IT DID NOT REPORT GUNSHOT WOUND UNTIL JANUARY 12 PRESUMABLY ASSUMING MATER HAD DONE SO. ROYAL SURGEONS FOUND THAT BULLET ENTERED UNCLASSIFIED

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FACE NEAR NOSE, PASSED THROUGH MOUTH AND LODGED ONE-EIGHTH

INCH FROM SPINAL COLUMN, OPERATION TO REMOVE BULLET AND REPAIR
DAMAGE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DELAYED UNTIL ABOUT JANUARY 12.

3. NEITHER POLICE NOR ARMY, ACCORDING TO ABOVE SOURCE, HAVE
ANY RECORD OF ANY SHOOTING IN GROSVENOR ROAD AREA ON JANUARY
4 AT 11.30 PM. SPENT BULLET FROM OTHER PART OF CITY SEEMS
UNLIKELY IN VIEW OF SMALL CALIBRE AND VELOCITY AND TRAJECTORY.
WHY ANYONE WOULD BE SHOOTING AT OR NEAR TWO GIRLS IS ONE OF
MYSTERIES OF CASE. THERE IS ALSO CONSIDERABLE MYSTERY ABOUT
MOTIVATIONS OF SUBJECT, FOR VISITING REMOTE RELATIVES IN
BELFAST, FOR EXAMPLE. MOREOVER, FAMILY HAS BEEN TOLD SHE WENT
DIRECT FROM COUSIN'S HOME TO GROSVENOR ROAD, BUT POLICE
KNOW SHE STOPPED OFF AT ORCHID BAR, KNOWN MAINLY AS AN IRA
HANGOUT AND AT LEAST A PLACE WHERE TWO GIRLS WOULD NOT GO WITHOUT
AN ESCORT OR AN ENGAGEMENT TO MEET SOMEONE.

4. ACCORDING SUBJECT'S MOTHER YESTERDAY, SUBJECT RELEASED IN
GOOD CONDITION FROM HOSPITAL ON JANUARY 19. THEY PLANNED FLY
TO U.S. FROM DUBLIN JANUARY 22.

5. INFORM CONGRESSMAN WYDLER.PENBERTHY

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NNN

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